

## Scout Day at the National Weather Service in Ruskin

3/21/2009

*Be Prepared.* The motto has been used by the Boy Scouts since 1908, was later adopted by the Girl Scouts, and is an important part of the National Weather Service (NWS) message to the public when hazardous weather is predicted.

On March 21, your NWS in Ruskin, FL had the privilege of helping 165 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts step closer to fulfilling their motto. The scouts started their day by seeing the dangers of various types of hazardous weather through animations and video. They then moved into the operations area for a demonstration of the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System and a discussion of the forecast and warning process. The scouts finished their hour tour with a look at a weather balloon, radar tower, and other instruments used by the NWS to produce forecasts and warnings for hazardous weather.

In all, 14 scout troops from Hillsborough county and Manatee county toured NWS Ruskin. The success of Scout Day may ensure this becomes an annual event. A special thank you goes out to Karen Jacobi and Bill Kalbas of the Boy Scout Timucua District for their help in organizing and planning the event.

